Indian Nationals Languishing in Foreign Jails

*216. SHRI ATAL BIHARI V-JPAYEE: SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased t$_0$ state:

(a) what ig the number of Indian nationals who are at present lan-guishing in t i$_e$ jails in different countries and since when, country-wise;

(b) what i$_B$ the number of cases that hav$_e$ be$_{en}$ taken up by Government with the irrespective countries, country-wise, f >r their release; and

(c) what i$_s$ he number of Indian nationals relea; 3d by each country during each oi the last three years and so far dui *ng* the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) l;o (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Inner-Line permit for North-Eastern States

•217. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a Conference' of major regional parties of the North East, there'was a demand that inner-line permit, n >w in force in Naga-land, Arunacha Pradesh and Mizo-ram, be introduced in all th$_e$ States in the region; *md*

(b) if so, wl at is Government's reaction thereto'

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SFRi BUTA SINGH).: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is keen that the interests of th$_e$ tribals in the North East sr ould bo safeguarded but any restriction on movement of Indian Citizens has to b$_e$ viewed in the context of national integration alongwith the interests of th$_e$ general public or of Scheduled Tribes.

Indo-US Relations

*218. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US relations have been getting strained for the past few years;

(b) if so, what are the major areas of policy discord resulting in strained relations between the two countries;

(c) what are the major projects which have been stalled because of the growing strained relations between the two countries; and

(d) whether any talks were held between the two Governments to resolve the issues involved for better understanding and cooperation and. if so, what results have been achieved GO far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K'. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Ther$_e$ has bee$_n$ an improvement in Indo-US relations in recent years notwithstanding differences between the tw$_0$ countries on some regional and international issues.

(b) Th$_e$ * continuous supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan Beyond its defence requirements and the tolerance of Pakistan's obvious attempts t$_0$ acquire a nuclear weapons capability despite the flouting of American **Wt3 that this has meant.

(c) None, Sir.

•>' *(d)* There is a continuous dialogue between the two countries at all levels on bilateral, regional and